

BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum-Lesson 12

Objectives

1. To understand the 6 personal pronouns and use them in sentence construction.
 2. To further practise common verbs in Bemba.
 3. To construct simple sentences in Bemba using the Pronoun + Formative + Verb construction.
 4. Familiarize with different food categories
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Let's speak simple Bemba! (A) (simple present tense)

Now that you know some Bemba verbs, let's try speaking the language.
Below is an illustration of 6 personal pronouns one must know.

I	Ine	
You(singular)	Iwe	Iwe e.g To a friend, Mwana!
You (plural)	Imwe	(Often used when referring to the adults and high authority as below) Lesa-God Shikulu-grandfather Mama / banakulu-grandmother Tata-father Mayo-Mother Mama-Grandmother
We	Imfwe	
He/she	uyu	

Build up vocabulary using the personal pronouns in sentence construction as guided below

Ine	I	Ine ndepika ifyakulya	I cook food
Iwe	You	Iwe ulateba ikuni	You fetch the firewood
Imfwe	We	Imfwe twaba abansansa	We are happy
Abo	They	Abo bali nsansamuka	They are happy
Imwe	You (plural)	Imwe mulalya ubwali	You eat ubwali

The personal pronouns need helping syllables called “formatives” when one uses them to say something. See illustration below of how this goes!

Lesson IV continued

PRONOUN + FORMATIVE + VERB			MEANING
↓	↓	↓	
1) Ine	nde _	Kala	I sit
3) Uyu/Tariro	ala __	seka	Tariro laughs
2) Iwe/Tatenda	ula ___	lila	Tatenda is crying or Tatenda cries
4) Imfwe	tula __	lala	We sleep
5) Abo (Tata)	bala___	poka	Father you take
6) Aba	bale __	kata	They hold
7) Ine	nde __	ya	I go

The word for word translation sounds very ungrammatical-but that’s in English. Such is the nature of Bemba.

Learn the pronouns and the formatives that go with them. Once you know them well, you can start **EXPLORING** the language on your own!

Here are some more everyday verbs for your language exploration!!

1) Ima-stand get up	9) ipika-cook	17) Mfwa –die
2) Enda-walk	10) Samba-wash	18) Lya-eat
3) Butuka-run	11) Fwala-put on/ wear	19) -nwa-drink
4) Posa-throw away	12) Fula-take off /remove	20) Temwa –like or love
5) Tola-pick up	13) Shita-buy	21)Ndemfwaya - want or need
6) Imya-lift up	14) Shitisha-sell	22)Nkumbwa - admire or fancy
7) Putula-cut	15) Mwentula-smile	
8) Putula-chop	16)Uma-beat /hit	

General Word building: Food category

People need food to be healthy and strong - Abantu balemfwaya ifyakulya pakuti baba aba mutende no kukosa:

Isabi	Fish
Inama	Meat
Fisabo	Fruits
Amenshi	Water
Imiti	Trees
Amataba / Inyanje	Maize
Umusalu	Vegetables
Ifya kunwa	Drinks
Inama	Meat
Ifisabo	Fruits
Isabi	Fish
Umupunga	Rice